

STEVE STRIKES TO BREAK THE DEADLOCK

Wycombe Wanderers 1, Oxford City 0.
A SOLITARY goal early in the second half on Tuesday night by one of Saturday's F.A. Cup heroes, Steve Perrin, gave Wycombe Wanderers three more points in their bid for the Rothmans Isthmian League Championship. They are now in second place on goal average behind Hendon, but have a game in hand.

With rain pouring down throughout the match, both sides did well to produce some attractive football in conditions they had not encountered this season. Inevitably, however, the greasy surface eventually dictated events.

Wanderers made only one change from Saturday's winning side, bringing in Graham Mackenzie for Ian Rundle at substitute.

Considering the weather and Oxford's non-stop chasing, Wycombe did well to produce their accurate passing game, and they deserved the points, having created more chances than their much improved opponents.

NO FLUKE
City manager Maurice Kyle has done a great job this term. It was only their second league defeat of the season and after conceding 101 goals last season, he has somehow instilled fresh confidence into his squad. Oxford's promising league position is no fluke. They are a young and extremely quick side now, with nippy front runners, plenty of fight, midfield and far more stability in defence.

About the only thing they lacked was a man to finish off their moves. Chances, perhaps easier than Wycombe's, came their way regularly in the second half but weak finishing let them down.

In front of a good crowd considering the weather, both sides started at a hot pace with Searle going closest after seven minutes, bending a volley just

A vintage run by Tony Horseman after 33 minutes deserved better fate than one of six first half corners won by Wycombe. Receiving a lovely back heel from Searle, "Bodger" ran on but his goalbound shot struck Metcalfe and was deflected away.

Oxford ran well in the first half and their speed often had the home defence stretched. But

flick-on by Searle before Wanderers took the lead in the 52nd minute.

SCYTHED DOWN

Horseman was unceremoniously scythed down near the corner flag and took the free kick himself. He placed the ball perfectly into the Oxford area where Perrin picked up a loose clearance and hammered it home from close range.

was too erratic. The leading scorer went even closer three minutes later when a good run and cross by Metcalfe gave Sinnott the chance of a snap header. The ball, however clipped the crossbar and went over the top.

As a spectacle the game was marred by referee Godfrey's constant interruptions. Conditions, however, were as difficult for the

With only seconds remaining Woodley had the chance to put the scores level when Mackenzie's pass was intercepted in midfield. Woodley sprinted on past the Wycombe defence and had only Maskell to beat from a narrow angle.

The goalkeeper again came out well, however, making the shot even more acute and dived well to halt Woodley's drive and the final Oxford attack.

Wycombe: J. Maskell; D. Gamblin; P. Wood; D. Bullock; R. Grant; R. Williams (sub G. Mackenzie 85 mins); L. Pritchard; M. Holfield; A. Horseman; K. Searle, S. Perrin.

Oxford: P. Harris; J. Tompkins, S. Freeman; M. Kyle; A. Evans, E. Metcalfe, A. Sinnott; P. Delloway; R. Marcham; J. Woodley, S. Atherton.

Referee: J. Godfrey (Watford).

Half-time: 0-0.

Goalscorer: Wycombe - Perrin (52).

Official paying attendance: 1,008. Approximate total attendance: 1,200.

ROTHMANS ISTHMIAN LEAGUE Division I

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hendon	10	5	4	1	11	3	19
Wycombe	9	6	1	2	21	14	19
Watton	9	5	3	1	16	7	18
B. Stortford	10	5	2	3	21	9	17
Leighton	9	5	2	2	10	7	17
Leatherhead	9	5	1	3	15	8	16
Oxford C	9	4	3	2	14	16	15
Dulwich	8	4	2	2	11	7	14
Hayes	8	4	2	2	13	9	14
Enfield	9	4	1	4	11	6	13
Kingstonian	8	3	4	1	10	7	13
Hitchin	8	3	3	2	14	12	12
Sutton	7	3	2	2	8	7	11
Walthamstow	8	3	2	3	11	10	11
Bromley	9	3	1	5	16	12	10
Woking	7	3	1	3	11	10	10
Tooting	9	3	1	5	8	16	10
St Albans	9	2	1	6	9	15	7
Barking	8	2	1	5	4	16	7
Ilford	7	0	3	4	5	15	3
Clapton	8	1	0	7	4	21	3
Casuals	8	0	0	8	2	16	0

By STUART EARP; Wycombe Wanderers 1, Oxford City 0

over the top. Then in the 23rd minute the centre forward spurned a good opportunity when he picked up Harris' weak goalkick but shot wildly over again.

the difference John Maskell's return has to make to the back four was again noticeable. Dave Bullock and Phil Wood both looked confident making some timely interceptions and dominating Oxford's front runners in the air. Wood especially stood out in the closing stages of the match.

Although the visitors hit back with a couple of corners late in the half, Wanderers started the second period well and a concerted assault on the City goal brought them a deserved breakthrough.

Steve Perrin lobbed just wide with Harris struggling and Pritchard fired over a clever

Oxford, spurred on by the vocal promptings of player manager Kyle at centre back, almost levelled the score in the 61st minute when Marcham sprinted through but John Maskell spread himself at the striker's feet and blocked the shot well.

They were soon attacking again and began to exploit gaps in the home rearguard. With the big men finding it difficult to turn, Sinnott, Marcham and Woodley made the most of their extras speed to set up a series of chances.

Sinnott brought a diving save from Maskell in the 63rd minute but in general, City's finishing

referee as the players with the slippery surface making it a tough job to determine a genuine foul.

In the closing stages of the game, as the players tired, the football deteriorated with Wycombe tending to bunch in midfield. Both sides favoured the shorter pass, understandably as their longer efforts were difficult to measure and often went skidding out of play.

Young "Jock" Mackenzie came on for Rob Williams in the 85th minute, Williams receiving some deserved applause for another hard working performance.

The last few minutes were not without their anxious moments for Wanderers.